

Application No. 10/696,667

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Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A vascular medical device for use in a blood vessel of a patient comprising:

an expandable stent which takes the form of a small diameter skeletal tubular member having a thin wall, said wall of said skeletal tubular member including a plurality of cells which are formed by a plurality of interconnected strut members;

a plurality of elongated removable slat members interwoven between at least two of said plurality of strut members to temporarily attach plurality of said removable slat member to said skeletal tubular member to thereby provide a substantially continuous cover for a major portion of the peripheral surface ~~[[wall]]~~ of said skeletal tubular member, wherein each slat member has a circumferential width greater than its wall thickness; and

a plurality of tethers each attached to one of said plurality of removable slat members in order to selectively remove any one of said removable slat members to thereby provide a selective passage for blood flow through a portion of the wall of said skeletal tubular member.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said tethers are removably attached to the removable slat members.

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Claim 5 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said tethers take the form of elongated puller wires.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said tethers are comprised of a bioabsorbable material.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) A vascular medical device comprising:

an expandable stent which takes the form of a hollow tubular member comprised of an expandable wire frame having a peripheral surface;

a plurality of ~~[[an]]~~ elongated removable slat members carried by said hollow tubular member and providing a substantially continuous cover for ~~a major portion of~~ the peripheral surface of said hollow tubular member, wherein each slat member has a circumferential width greater than its wall thickness; and

a tether attached to each of said removable slat members so that said tether may be pulled to remove said slat member from said hollow tubular member.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 7, wherein said tether is removably attached to said removable slat member.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 7, wherein said tether is comprised of a bioabsorbable material.

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Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 12, wherein said plurality of tethers are removably attached to said removable slat members.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 12, wherein said tethers takes the form of an elongated puller wire.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 12, wherein said tethers are comprised of a bioabsorbable material.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) A vascular medical device for use in a blood vessel of a patient, comprised of:

an outer expandable stent which takes the form of a first hollow skeletal tubular member which defines a first peripheral surface;

a first plurality of removable slat members carried by said first skeletal tubular member and spaced apart at approximately equal distances around the first peripheral surface of said first skeletal tubular member to thereby provide a substantially continuous cover for ~~a major portion~~ of said first peripheral surface;

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an inner expandable stent which takes the form of a second hollow skeletal tubular member which defines a second peripheral surface;

a second plurality of removable slat members carried by said second skeletal tubular member and space apart at approximately equal distances around the second peripheral surface of said second skeletal tubular member to thereby provide a substantially continuous cover for a ~~major portion of~~ said second peripheral surface, said second skeletal tubular member being coaxially disposed within said first skeletal tubular member and being oriented such that said first plurality of removable slat members and said second plurality of removable slat members form a substantially continuous cover for said medical device, wherein each slat member has a circumferential width greater than its wall thickness;

a first plurality of tethers each attached to one of said first plurality of removable slat members in order to selectively remove any one of said first plurality of slat members to thereby provide a selective passage for blood flow through the first peripheral surface; and,

a second plurality of tethers each attached to one of said second plurality of removable slat members in order to selectively remove any one of said second plurality of slat members to thereby provide a selective passage for blood flow through the second peripheral surface.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) A vascular medical device for use in a blood vessel of a patient, comprised of:

an outer expandable stent which takes the form of a first hollow skeletal tubular member which defines a first peripheral surface and having a first plurality of cells formed by a first plurality of interconnected strut members;

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a first plurality of removable slat members interwoven between said first plurality of strut members of said first skeletal tubular member and spaced apart at approximately equal distances around the first peripheral surface of said first skeletal tubular member to thereby provide a substantially continuous cover a portion-majority of said first peripheral surface;

an inner expandable stent which takes the form of a second hollow skeletal tubular member which defines a second peripheral surface and having a second plurality of cells formed by a second plurality of interconnected strut members; a second plurality of removable slat members interwoven between said second plurality of strut members of said second skeletal tubular member and spaced apart at approximately equal distances around the second peripheral surface of said second skeletal tubular member to thereby provide a substantially continuous cover a portion-majority of said second peripheral surface, said inner expandable stent being coaxially disposed within said outer expandable stent and oriented such that said first plurality of slat members and said second plurality of slat members form a substantially continuous cover for said medical device, wherein each slat member has a circumferential width greater than its wall thickness;

a first plurality of detachable tethers each attached to one of said first plurality of slat members in order to selectively remove any one of said first plurality of slat members to thereby provide a selective passage for blood flow through the first peripheral surface of said outer expandable stent; and,

a second plurality of detachable tethers each attached to one of said second plurality of slat members in order to selectively remove any one of said second plurality of slat members to thereby provide a selective passage for blood flow through the second peripheral surface of said inner expandable stent.

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Claim 18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Previously presented) A method of treating an aneurysm comprising the steps of:

providing an expandable stent which takes the form of a skeletal tubular member having a peripheral surface and a plurality of removable slat members each carried by said skeletal tubular member to provide a substantially continuous cover for ~~a major portion of~~ said peripheral surface, wherein each slat member has a circumferential width greater than its wall thickness;

inserting said expandable stent into a blood vessel of a patient;

advancing said expandable stent through said blood vessel until said expandable stent is aligned with and covering an aneurysm in said blood vessel; and,

removing one of said plurality of removable slat members to thereby provide blood flow to a branching blood vessel.

Claim 20 (Previously presented) A method of treating an aneurysm comprising the steps of:

providing a medical device including an outer expandable stent which takes the form of a first skeletal tubular member which defines a first peripheral surface, a first plurality of removable slat members carried by said first skeletal tubular member to provide a substantially continuous cover for ~~a major portion of~~ said first peripheral surface, a first plurality of tethers each attached to one of said first plurality of slat members, an inner expandable stent which takes the form of a second skeletal tubular member which defines a second peripheral surface, a second plurality of removable slat members carried by said second skeletal tubular member to provide a substantially continuous cover for ~~a major portion of~~ said second peripheral surface,

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and a second plurality of tethers each attached to one of said second plurality of slat members, said inner expandable stent being coaxially disposed within said outer expandable stent and positioned such that said first plurality of removable slat members and said second plurality of removable slat members form a substantially continuous cover for said medical device, wherein each slat member has a circumferential width greater than its wall thickness;

inserting said medical device into a blood vessel of a patient;

advancing said medical device distally through said blood vessel until said medical device is aligned with and covering an aneurysm in said blood vessel; and,

selectively removing any one of said second plurality of removable slat members by moving the tether attached to said removable slat member proximally and thus allowing blood to flow into a branching blood vessel.

Claim 21- 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Previously presented) A vascular medical device for use in a blood vessel of a patient, comprising:

an outer expandable stent which takes the form of a first hollow skeletal tubular member having a peripheral surface;

a first cover member carried by said first hollow skeletal tubular member, and covering a major portion of the peripheral surface of said first skeletal tubular member and said first cover member including a first removable section;

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an inner expandable stent which takes the form of a second hollow skeletal tubular member having a peripheral surface and being disposed coaxially within the first skeletal tubular member;

a second cover member carried by said second hollow skeletal tubular member and covering a major portion of the peripheral surface of said second skeletal tubular member, said second cover member including a second removable section, said first hollow skeletal tubular member being oriented with respect to said second hollow skeletal tubular member such that the first cover member and second cover member cover substantially the entire peripheral surface of said expandable stent; and,

a first elongated activation member coupled to said first removable section for withdrawing said first removable section from said first hollow skeletal tubular member; and,

a second elongated activation member coupled to said second removable section for withdrawing said second removable section from said second hollow skeletal tubular member in order to permit blood to flow through a portion of the peripheral surface of said first hollow skeletal tubular member.

Claim 30 (Previously presented) The vascular medical device as defined in Claim 29, wherein said elongated activation members are removably attached to said removable sections of the cover members.

Claim 31 - 32 (Canceled)